

The Caboose

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NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 4, 1998, at 7:00 p.m., in the Cumberland Public Library, 1515 Tenth Line Road. Our guest speaker will be Dr. I.F. Kennedy: "Lest We Forget." Come along, and bring a friend!

LAST MEETING

A regular meeting was held on September 2 in the Cumberland Public Library on Tenth Line Road. The guest speaker was Verna Cotton, Curator of the Navan Branch of the Tweedsmuir Histories. Verna began by tracing the history of the Women's Institutes of Ontario back to 1897. She went on to explain that there are three Women's Institutes in Cumberland Township, i.e. in Cumberland, in Leonard and in Navan. The Navan Branch was started in 1931. The Tweedsmuir Histories, named for the wife of a former Governor General of Canada, have been collected by various Women's Institutes since the 1930s. Verna has been Curator in Navan for 14 years. There were eleven people in attendance, and all had a chance to ask questions and leaf through the books themselves.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Early Catholic Missions in the Lower Ottawa Valley

by Bob Serré

The first Catholic families who settled in the Ottawa Valley below the Chaudière Falls had to travel to Rigaud to find a priest. The closest parish was Sainte-Madeleine in Rigaud, whose register dates back to 1802. Previously, Rigaud had been a mission of the parish of Saint-Michel in Vaudreuil. Across from Vaudreuil on the Lake of Two Mountains was the Sulpician mission of Oka, with its parish of the Annunciation, dating back to 1721.

The Sulpicians were a society of Roman Catholic secular priests, founded in France in 1642. They cared for the souls of Iroquois, Algonquin and other Native groups in Oka and at trading posts up the Ottawa Valley.

After Amable Faubert settled in Cumberland Township on land purchased from the Dunning family around 1807, several of his children were baptized in Rigaud. Then, in 1815, a mission was established for the settlers of the Petite-Nation seigneurie (Montebello), and the Sulpicians of Oka took charge of it.

In September of that same year 1815, Amable Faubert had his 18-day-old son Gabriel baptized by Father Roupe at the Petite-Nation mission. Father Roupe baptized two other children of Amable Faubert, Véronique in 1818 and Mathilde in 1820.

Jean-Baptiste Roupe had been born on January 9, 1782, in Montreal. He was the son of Samuel Roupe and of Marie-Joseph Clocher. His father, born into a Protestant family, had left his native Switzerland for New France in 1757, converting to Catholicism soon after his arrival in Quebec City.

Jean-Baptiste Roupe had been ordained a Sulpician priest in 1805, and had first been sent to the St. Regis mission on the south shore of the St. Lawrence, where he had learned the language of the Iroquois. After taking over the Petite-Nation mission in 1815, Father Roupe began visiting the settlers on both sides of the Ottawa River, twice a year, in July for about four weeks, and in January for about three weeks.

People of other faiths would occasionally use the services of the Catholic missionary. Thus Zalmon Dunning, one of the four sons of Abijah Dunning who first settled in the Buckingham-Cumberland area, had his four-year-old son Eloi baptized by Father Roupe on January 16, 1817; the godfather was Eloi Launen and the godmother Marie Anne Foubert.

Father Roupe was a dedicated missionary, but his presence in Montebello was marred by controversy. He was opposed to marriages between Whites and Indians, and this may have contributed to his being recalled to Oka in 1829. He worked on for some twenty-five years in Montreal, dying in that city in August 1854.

Father Paisley, who replaced Father Roupe in Montebello, established a mission in Buckingham, and that mission later became the parish of Saint-Grégoire-de-Naziance. The mission dates back to 1827; the parish register dates back to 1836, and records many baptisms, marriages and deaths of pioneer families in Cumberland Township.

The process of expansion continued as Thurso and Cumberland became missions of Buckingham, but that story will have to wait for another issue of The Caboose.

FRASER-KENNEDY

Robert Fraser, who came from Aberdeen, Scotland, bought land from the Crown in the northwestern corner of Cumberland Township. His daughter, Jane Fraser, married James Kennedy, son of James Kennedy of St. Andrew's (Province of Quebec), who had come to Canada from Ayrshire via County Monaghan, Northern Ireland.

Robert James Kennedy, son of James Kennedy and of Jane Fraser, was born in 1892, and became Clerk and Treasurer of Cumberland Township. He married Eva Farmer, daughter of David

Farmer and Jane Bickerton. They lived in the village of Cumberland and had four sons and two daughters.

One of their four sons, Irving Farmer Kennedy, was born in 1922. He joined the RCAF in 1940 and became a Squadron Leader. After the war, he studied medicine and served the community as a doctor for 27 years. Dr. Kennedy, now 76, lives on Sarsfield Road. In 1994, he published a book on his wartime experiences entitled "Black Crosses off my Wingtip."

I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Kennedy last August, and he kindly provided the above information. We enjoyed a cooling glass of iced tea prepared by Mrs. Kennedy, after which Dr. Kennedy, still very fit, returned to fixing his fence. I chatted a bit with his sister, Dr. Joyce Kennedy, Emeritus Director, Ventura Campus, California State University, Northridge, and then cycled back to my cottage on the Ottawa River, after a delightful visit to a peaceful spot aptly called Chickadee Woods.

Bob Serré

RESEARCH TIPS

Ann Gonneau has provided a research tip about the parish records of St. Hugues Roman Catholic church in Sarsfield. The first baptism was that of John Robinson on November 30, 1873. The first marriage was that of Joseph Bruyère and Mélina Éthier on April 12, 1874. The first burial was that of Armeline Faubert on November 29, 1873. Two series of births, marriages and deaths (Nov. 29, 1873 to Dec. 18, 1897 and Jan. 9, 1898 to Dec. 27, 1920) as well as confirmations for 1888-1898 and 1898 to 1979 have been microfilmed, and copies of the original (with an alphabetical index) are kept at the Family History Centre, 1017 Prince of Wales Dr. in Ottawa (film BGL No. 486).

NEWS AND NOTES

Sunday, November 15th at 11:00 a.m. Rev. Roger Steinke will be guest preacher at St. Mary's Anglican Church in Navan, as part of the 100th Anniversary celebrations. Refreshments will follow the service. Information: Verna Cotton at 835-2490.

Sunday, December 20th at 7:00 p.m. Advent Lessons and Carols at St. Mary's Anglican Church in Navan, as part of the 100th Anniversary celebrations; followed by refreshments. Information: Verna Cotton at 835-2490.

BY THE WAY...

A lot has happened since the last newsletter... Decisions made at the "special" meeting (August 26) included permitting our new "Local History Room" to be open to the public during library hours, and a general agreement that in the event the historical society should cease to exist, the collection would be left in the control of the library to achieve the most public exposure. Thanks to the many who attended, and to those who could not but took the time to call or write to express their opinions.

The collection has been put in storage at Ruth Parsons' house, so if you need anything, please call 835-3252. We hope to be in the new library in February, 1999.

Thanks again to Verna Cotton for a most informative "Tweedsmuir" evening at our September 2nd meeting.

Suggestions and ideas for future meetings or outings are welcome, as are any new members.

Ruth Parsons, President

VISAGES DU PASSÉ

Cécile Bélisle est née en 1905 à Sarsfield. Son père Hector, qui était forgeron, avait épousé, en deuxièmes noces, Ellen (Nelly) Delaney, fille de Thomas Delaney et d'Ellen O'Meara, le 25 octobre 1897, à l'église Saint-Hugues de Sarsfield. Hector et Nelly ont eu neuf enfants.

Né en 1868, Hector était le fils d'Eustache Bélisle dit Goyer et de Delphine Touchette, de Saint-Eustache, comté des Deux-Montagnes, au nord de Montréal. Il a quitté Sarsfield en 1919, avec sa famille, pour s'établir à Ottawa. Il n'y a vécu que cinq ans environ. Il est mort en 1924.

Lorsque son mari est mort en 1924, Ellen Delaney a dû subvenir aux besoins de sa famille. Sa fille Cécile a commencé à travailler chez R.H. Wright, fleuriste, au 54 de la rue Sparks. Elle demeurait chez sa mère au 567 de la rue Saint-Patrick.

Le 23 septembre 1930, Cécile a épousé Hector Paquette, fils d'Aimé Paquette et de Marie-Anne Auger, à l'église Sainte-Anne d'Ottawa. Le jeune couple a demeuré quelque temps au 120 de la rue Wurtemberg, entre Clarence et Heney. Hector et Cécile ont ensuite demeuré au 37 de la rue Electric, dans le quartier New Edinburgh, puis au 315A de la rue Saint-André. Ils ont eu deux fils : Jacques et Gilles.

En 1944, vingt ans après avoir fait ses débuts dans le commerce des fleurs, Cécile a ouvert son propre magasin, au 324 de la rue Rideau, sous le nom Cécile Paquette.

Hector, qui était né en 1901, est mort en 1958. Vers 1962, Cécile a épousé, en deuxièmes noces, Lionel Beauséjour, courtier en immeubles. Ils sont allés demeurer au 1544 de la rue Caledon dans le quartier Alta Vista d'Ottawa.

Vers 1968, Cécile a déménagé son commerce au 364 de la rue Rideau. Quelques années plus tard, une succursale a été établie au centre commercial Elmvale à l'angle du boulevard Saint-Laurent et du chemin Smyth.

Pendant une dizaine d'années, Cécile a enseigné les complexités de l'arrangement floral à Guelph (Ontario). Elle a également été présidente du conseil d'administration de la Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa.

Cécile a perdu son deuxième mari en 1972. Elle est morte quelques années plus tard, le 11 mars 1978, à l'âge de 72 ans. Elle avait eu la satisfaction de voir son fils Jacques participer activement à son commerce.

Robert Serré